

Appln No. 09/346,361

Amdt date March 3, 2004

Reply to Office action of December 8, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

Claims 14 - 25, 29 - 32 and 34 - 39 are now in the application. Claims 1 - 13, 26 and 27 have been previously cancelled and Claims 28 and 33 are cancelled herewith. Claims 29, 30 and 32 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 28 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Tripathi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,974,089). However, the Examiner has objected to Claims 29 - 32 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner has also allowed Claims 14 - 25 and 34 - 39.

To expedite issuance of the allowed and allowable claims, the Applicants have canceled Claims 28 and 33 and have put Claims 29, 30 and 32 in independent form, Claim 31 remaining dependent upon now independent Claim 30.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been



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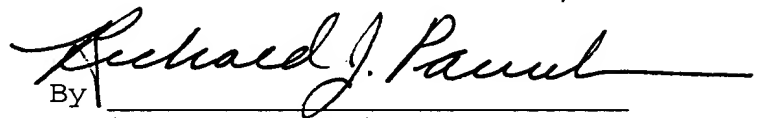
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overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above
Application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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